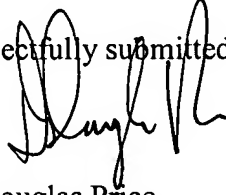


REMARKS

Original claims 3, 5, 7-12, and 14 have been amended.

In view of the foregoing, early action on the merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Douglas Price", written over the typed name.

D. Douglas Price
Reg. No. 24,514

STEPTOE & JOHNSON LLP
1330 Connecticut Ave., N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20036
Tel: (202) 429-6748